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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the understanding reached at the (resumed) 4092nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 January 2000 on the item entitled "The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo", the statements of the representatives of Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Lesotho, Norway, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America and the Permanent Observer for the International Organization of la Francophonie to the United Nations are reproduced in the annexes to the present note.

The President of the Security Council wishes to express his gratitude to the above-mentioned delegations for their understanding and cooperation.

Annex I

[Original: English]

Brazil: statement by Gelson Fonseca, Jr., Permanent Representative

Let me first commend you, Mr. President, on dedicating this entire week of activities of the Security Council to the situation on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This is a timely initiative and yet another clear sign of the resolve and determination of the United States Presidency in the Security Council to come to grips with the critical situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one which has been described as Africa's First World War and represents today the most difficult challenge to the Security Council in facing up to its Charter responsibilities.

We welcome the presence here today of the African leaders of the region. This meeting is an example of the Security Council at its best. It is a remarkable effort to put the Lusaka peace process back on track.

Brazil has always called for an active and direct involvement of the Security Council in peacemaking efforts. As Secretary-General Kofi Annan has reminded us time and again peace cannot be imposed on parties that do not want it. But it is no less true that where a peace process is needed it is the role of the United Nations to help create one; and where obstacles obstruct further progress it is our role to help remove them.

It is our genuine hope that this week's discussions will make strides in removing the main obstacles still facing the peace process.

Brazil favours a robust presence of the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and we support the three-phase approach outlined by the Secretary-General.

The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is an important test for the Organization. If the Security Council fails in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, its authority and credibility will be seriously damaged.

We understand nevertheless the dilemma faced by the Council.

We must deal with the problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with a sharp sense of realism. And it is true that, despite the efforts made by the leaders in the region, there are repeated violations of the Ceasefire Agreement, most of its provisions are not fully respected and ideal conditions are not yet in place for the safe deployment of an enlarged United Nations operation.

But this is no reason for the Council to rest immobilized. And we are reassured that this meeting is proof enough that the Council is not.

But as I had the opportunity to point out last December in our debate in the Council, in certain political situations, when two sides are presenting contradictory arguments, both can be right.

The urgent matter for the Council is to show concrete evidence of its commitment not to let the Lusaka Agreement derail for lack of earnestly needed international support.

In this respect there is an urgent need of adequate financial resources to support the internal mechanisms established by the Lusaka Agreement, namely the Political Committee and the Joint Military Commission.

But beyond that, we must recognize that the call so eloquently presented for an enlarged presence of the United Nations is not an artificial one. It can serve as a firm deterrent to further violations of the ceasefire and it can provide a solid foundation for the peace process to bear fruits.

We therefore support the call made in the last report by the Secretary-General that the Security Council proceed with the authorization of an enlarged presence of the United Nations in the region.

Not only the concept of operations and military tasks outlined in the report seem appropriate to the circumstances and the magnitude of the challenges, but also the preconditions set out in paragraph 60 of the report are clear enough and must be respected by all parties concerned. The signatories of the Lusaka Agreement bear a crucial responsibility in ensuring its implementation.

This enlarged presence should be followed in due course by a United Nations peacekeeping operation under Chapter VII.

Like the Secretary-General we view this meeting as a unique opportunity for the leaders of the countries concerned to demonstrate their commitment to the Agreement and ultimately to peace and stability in the entire Central African region.

The supportive steps taken by the international community need to be matched by a responsive attitude on the part of the warring factions.

It is indeed vital to create the political conditions for a lasting peace in the region.

Brazil firmly believes that this should be based on the principles of territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, security of national borders, and genuine international cooperation for the promotion of social and economic development and for the removal of the root causes of conflict.

International support will also have to be matched by internal peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We were encouraged by the designation of Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana, as the neutral facilitator to conduct the inter-Congolese national dialogue. The establishment and

consolidation of a truly representative democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a precondition for lasting peace in the country.

Let me also reiterate our firm support to the continuous efforts deployed by the Secretary-General and our deep appreciation for the work of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo under the leadership of the Special Representative Kamel Morjane.

Brazil's solidarity with Africa takes root on multiple linkages forged through centuries of a common history. The Brazilian people are genuinely concerned with the plight of the continent and are always willing to contribute their share of cooperation to help Africa overcome its compelling problems.

Annex II

[Original: French]

Cape Verde: statement by José Luis Monteiro, Permanent Representative

The work segment the Security Council has started on today is not simply just another one. It is devoted to an issue of extraordinary importance and gravity for African, and hence international, peace and security.

The conflict taking place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has revealed regional roots and developed regional ramifications which confer on it a complexity and an impact on the African continent that are unparalleled in the recent history of Africa.

We thank you and congratulate once again, Mr. President, on the initiative you have taken of promoting this burst of momentum that the present segment of meetings and consultations represents.

The fact that this initiative has won the support, and enjoys the presence at the highest level, of the parties involved and concerned confirms to us that it is both vital and timely.

The Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement meant that the parties opted for seeking a solution to their dispute other than through hostilities. The Agreement remains a fundamental instrument, and our job is now to give effect to its substance by implementing the plan of action it contains.

The institutions provided for in the Agreement, among them the Joint Military Commission and the Political Committee, are in place and functioning. More recently, in the person of former President Sir Ketumile Masire, the Facilitator of the National Political Dialogue has also assumed his duties.

Valuable time has nevertheless been lost, and meanwhile, the ceasefire has not always been fully respected on the ground. There is thus an urgent need for vigorous reactivation of the process in order to complete and consolidate it.

It is the expectation of the African Group that the United Nations, through the Security Council, will finally be able to decide on and authorize the deployment of the military observers and peacekeeping force whose absence has so far prevented it from providing the envisaged and necessary support for the consolidation of the ceasefire and the transition to more advanced phases of settlement of the conflict.

In this context, the Security Council wanted to hear, from the top African leaders participating in this meeting, a reaffirmation of their firm commitment to the Lusaka Agreement and of their readiness to do everything to ensure that it is more fully respected.

Yesterday, we heard that reaffirmation stated unanimously and forcefully. It is in our view clearly apparent that there is no doubt in the minds of the senior officials concerned of the need to implement the Agreement in full, and more immediately of the need for an effective ceasefire.

This moment, which some have described as a quasi-renaissance of the Lusaka Agreement, is moreover a sequel to meetings held in the past few days by the Joint Military Commission, the important Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit and the Political Commission. Taken together, these exercises lend all the credibility that is currently possible, and respond to the Council's requirements for so facilitating its decision to deploy the military observers and the peace force without further delay.

Africa is unanimously convinced that this deployment constitutes a vital element in making the ceasefire permanent, and that it should not be regarded rather as a cement applied a posteriori. Moreover, recent experience in relation to other conflicts does indeed seem to confirm this perception.

But we remain concerned about this issue. The risks and operational requirements associated with the deployment must not go beyond what is reasonable, but seeking to eliminate these risks as a condition for the deployment might prove unrealistic, prolong the slowness of the action and keep the way open for losses of direction which would again compromise the success of the peace process. It is to be hoped that the resolution the Council is preparing for adoption reflects the appropriate determination in this regard.

Meanwhile, the important presidential statement just adopted provides a useful updating of the requirements for better implementation of the Lusaka Agreement, and is thus capable of strengthening the existing framework for cooperation among the parties, the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity with a view to the success of the peace process.

We also commend the statements that have been made of tangible support for the needs of the Joint Military Commission and the important activity of the Facilitator of the National Dialogue. It is to be hoped that these decisions by some members of the international community will encourage and stimulate others in the same direction.

Restoring peace, finding just and credible solutions to the problems in the region and re-establishing trust and cooperation there, these are the objectives which will follow the more immediate consolidation of the ceasefire. The Lusaka Agreement, moreover, already indicates this inevitable direction. For the conflict in the region is yet another, and a major, stumbling block on the road to the progress and development of Africa, one which its leaders have a duty to remove in the interests of the well-being of their peoples.

May your deliberations be crowned with success.

Annex III

[Original: Spanish]

Colombia: statement by Alfonso Valdivieso, Permanent Representative

Colombia is a country that is a friend of Africa. Furthermore, it is a member of the international community which longs to see peace prevail on that continent. These are our main reasons for participating in this debate and contributing our brief and constructive point of view to efforts to settle the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To put it briefly, we should like to see the unconditional implementation of the following general principles, which we wish to underscore:

1. The responsibility for achieving peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo falls essentially upon the parties to the conflict. The work of the Security Council must be to support, not replace, the regional solution set forth in the Lusaka Agreement. The responsibility for administering the peace must also be essentially that of the parties, with the resolute support of the international community. Accordingly, it is important that the national dialogue among the Congolese people should begin immediately.

2. Expectations with regard to the role that can be played by the United Nations must be realistic. Previous peacekeeping situations have provided us with some lessons. Let us not make this another learning experience. Peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a task for the entire international community. Failure also has an impact on everyone, to a greater or lesser degree. We support the deployment of the 500 military observers, as the Secretary-General has recommended.

3. The territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must be preserved and respected. Any solution that does not respect this principle will create future instability in the region. The statements on the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made this week by the distinguished heads of State of the African countries most involved in the conflict and by other delegations participating in the debate are, in our view, encouraging.

4. A large number of persons affected by the conflict require urgent humanitarian attention. Accordingly, it is necessary to ensure that humanitarian personnel are able to move freely and have access to the population groups in need. Children should not be recruited in order to serve in the war. The norms of international humanitarian law must be respected.

5. It is more difficult to administer peace than to achieve it. A political settlement of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will probably be achieved. But this is only the beginning of what is usually more difficult and complicated: administering the peace. We sincerely hope that the Security Council will maintain this longer-term perspective.

My delegation, Mr. President, wishes to congratulate you for the initiative that you have taken in organizing this open debate in the Council during the presidency of the United States of America. At the same time, we wish to reiterate our commitment of solidarity with Africa and with its leaders, who, at this time, are facing the challenge of resolving the greatest regional conflict of the post-colonial period.

Annex IV

[Original: Arabic]

Egypt: statement by Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Permanent Representative

My country's delegation listened with great interest and attention to the statements made yesterday by the leaders of the States parties to the Lusaka Agreement, just as we did to the statements of President Chiluba, former President Masire, Mr. Salim Ahmad Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, and the envoy of President Bouteflika. Since time is so short, allow me to touch briefly on a number of the points to which my delegation attaches particular importance, although I would hope that the full statement of Egypt's delegation will be incorporated in the official records of the Security Council.

1. The Lusaka Agreement represents by all accounts a major accomplishment whose importance can be belittled by none. Indeed, the Agreement continues at the present time to provide the comprehensive and unique political and military framework in which a peaceful and agreed settlement to the ongoing conflict in the Congo can be reached. While we acknowledge that the Agreement, signed as it was more than six months ago, has been violated on some occasions and that there have been delays with respect to compliance with the calendar annexed thereto, we nevertheless maintain our position that it is essential to enhance the role that must be assumed by the United Nations in order to promote its implementation before it is too late and before a historic opportunity to establish peace and stability in this region of the African continent is lost.

2. Egypt believes that the time has come to deploy the second stage of the United Nations military presence in the Congo by expanding the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) established by Security Council resolution 1279 (1999). I should like in this connection to stress that to wait until there are optimum security conditions before taking this step will serve no purpose because, like all other peacekeeping missions, the Congo operation will by its very nature and given the character of its location be fraught with dangers that cannot be avoided. That should not, however, be used to justify or excuse any failure to establish and dispatch the operation now, and I repeat the word "now". For its part, Egypt is fully prepared to participate in the peacekeeping operation immediately it is expanded, and we have already informed the Secretariat of the military observers Egypt can make available to the operation and are currently engaged in exploring the possibility of providing it with additional individuals and units.

3. The international community cannot contribute to promoting the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement without seeking a lasting solution to the problem of the armed groups present in the eastern part of the country, and the United Nations cannot establish and dispatch a peacekeeping operation without preparing and implementing an extensive and comprehensive programme to disarm and demobilize the members of these groups and reintegrate them into civilian life. We hope that the Joint Military Commission, in cooperation and

coordination with the United Nations, will be able to complete the elaboration of a clear and detailed scenario for proceeding with the implementation of this part of the Ceasefire Agreement in the near future.

4. The efforts of the international community to achieve lasting peace in the region cannot achieve success without addressing and remedying the intricate root causes of the problems that beset the Congo and its neighbours in all their ethnic, social, economic and humanitarian dimensions. We therefore support the initiative of the Government of France for the convening of an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region under the joint auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as soon as political and security conditions permit.

Annex V

[Original: French]

Israel: statement by Yehuda Lancry, Permanent Representative

First of all, and like the many speakers who have followed one another during this major discussion, I should like to express to you my full respect for your exceptional initiative.

Under your presidency of the Security Council, the African continent finds itself at the heart of the international debate, the subject of an intensive and wide-ranging dialogue taking place on a brightly lit stage with a level of speakers, partners and actors, in this particular case, that has rarely been equalled.

In so doing, Mr. President, you are responding not only to a priority urgent need of the United Nations agenda, but also to an undisputable imperative of justice that underlies your personal contribution, as remarkable as it is inspired, as well as that of your country, the United States of America, to peace and stability in a number of regions of the world.

There is undoubtedly in this wide-ranging consultation of the Security Council on Africa a widespread awareness of the acuteness and seriousness of the problems facing that continent. While the consultation cannot of itself alone replace the direct partners in peace and the actors on whom the future of Africa rest, it can nevertheless serve as an amplifier of Africa's creative energies directed towards peaceful coexistence and economic and social development.

For, it must be emphasized, these creative energies are indeed to be found on African soil. They are embodied, inter alia, in African organizations such as the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community, all of them structures whose commitment to the maintenance of peace, conflict resolution and collective development remains extremely valuable.

Conclusive proof of this is to be found in the efforts of OAU to calm one of the African hotbeds of tension with multiple repercussions that is afflicting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and some of its immediate neighbours. The decision of OAU to appoint the former President of Botswana, Ketumile Masire, as Facilitator in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the successive summits of the heads of State concerned, are important contributions to a negotiated settlement. The conclusions of the summits related to the progress in the implementation of the ceasefire, as well as the establishment of the Joint Military Commission that emerged from the Lusaka Agreement, or again the deployment of the OAU Military Observers for the maintenance of the ceasefire, are significant stages in the assembling of regional resources in pursuit of security and as a guarantee of future peace. From this noble standpoint, lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in the region, the contribution of the international community, and in particular that of the

United Nations and its agencies, represents a considerable, indeed essential, factor in the implementation of the Lusaka Agreement. Thus, over and above the activities of the United Nations Mission - MONUC - Security Council resolution 1279 (1999) gives the Democratic Republic of the Congo an important security mechanism for the maintenance of peace.

These precious assets, both regional and international, are a measure of the hard-won progress made thus far but they can and must be built on until the parties themselves find the political will to put an end to the conflict. International humanitarian and security assistance is a necessary part of this difficult process but it is not enough. The partners in dialogue and peacemaking will have to make a major political effort as well. It is they who will have to draw up the terms of a lasting settlement that can tap the region's potential and they who will have to support it by providing significant international economic and technical assistance.

Moreover, today's impressive consultation among seven heads of State linked to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will have traced the broad outlines of a possible solution. All the heads of State gathered here today view the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from standpoints in which many areas of convergence are discernible. The main points on which there is agreement are:

1. The Lusaka Agreement must be the basis for any peace agreement;

2. The territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is recognized by all the parties;

3. Support for the mediation missions of the Facilitator, President Masire, and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Ambassador Morjane, is unanimous;

4. All the parties accept the need for reconciliation among the Congolese people.

With regard to international assistance, from the earliest days of African independence Israel supported the young African States as they attained freedom and sovereignty. Israel, itself restored to statehood after two thousand years, felt an automatic affinity with a number of African peoples as they gained their independence. It is this profound affinity that explains the scope of Israeli-African cooperation in various areas, such as agriculture, industry, infrastructure, medicine and community development.

It is also these assets and this affinity between Israel and Africa that prompt, indeed compel, Israel, itself engaged in a peace process in its own region, to take part in this debate on peace in Africa.

Mr. President,

As a highly skilled peacemaker, you are fulfilling here today, with your customary talent, conviction and determination, a strong African vocation. By showing such responsiveness and sensitivity to Africa, you have taken a decisive

step in the right direction. As Nietszche once said, health is best gauged by ascertaining what ails a person.

To look at what ails Africa is to make a serious attempt to think and act in ways that will improve Africa's health. It is the international community's responsibility to build the many bridges that will bring Africa out of its isolation. The etymology of the word "Africa" is "Africus", one of the 12 winds of Greek mythology, that wind from the south which gave the continent its name. So we must make some good winds, some good spirits blow over Africa, which has been assailed by evil spirits for far too long.

Another possible meaning of the word "Africa", which derives from a personal etymology acquired in the land of my birth, Morocco, and hence in Africa, might give it, by virtue of a semantic and phonetic proximity which owes nothing to the rigour of etymological theory, an additional resonance. Without hazarding a linguistic blunder or twisting semantics, the Arabic language could detect in "Ifriquia" the root farq, referring to the notion of separation. This seems to point clearly to Africa's inherent withdrawal into itself. In this era of triumphant globalization, it is high time that universality, justice, equality and solidarity were extended to Africa, that illustrious but separate continent.

Annex VI

[Original: English]

Japan: statement by Yukio Satoh, Permanent Representative

I would like to commend you, first of all, on your strong leadership in focusing the Council's attention on Africa this month. The meetings to date have already raised the level of international awareness of the plight of African peoples and their communities, particularly, AIDS and the displacement of people, which are seriously threatening human security, that is to say, the life, freedom and dignity of many communities and their members in Africa.

I would also like to express my appreciation to you for convening this open meeting of the Security Council to consider ways and means of advancing the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is among the gravest ever witnessed in Africa, involving almost half the countries on the continent in one way or another. And it is no exaggeration to say that the Security Council's commitment to peace is now being tested on this issue.

It is all too clear that the Lusaka Peace Agreement must be implemented quickly in order to solidify the prospects for peace, not only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo but throughout the entire Great Lakes region. I have to stress that, by playing for time, the parties concerned are compounding the suffering of the civilian population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and depriving many countries involved of precious opportunities and prospects for development.

Japan therefore strongly demands that all parties concerned faithfully abide by all the elements of the Lusaka Peace Agreement. Most importantly, all the parties concerned must observe the ceasefire, foreign troops must be withdrawn from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and a national dialogue for reconciliation must be commenced.

For our part, Japan is prepared to make an additional financial contribution of $300,000 in order to promote a national dialogue to be facilitated by Sir Ketumile Masire. With the contribution of $200,000 already made last November to the Joint Military Commission, Japan's financial contribution in support of the Lusaka peace process will amount to half a million dollars.

We are extremely encouraged by the efforts which the United States has made in order to have the leaders of all the parties to the Lusaka Agreement present in New York and to provide them with an opportunity to reconfirm their commitment to the Agreement.

Japan welcomes the presidential statement just adopted in front of all the Heads of State who signed the Lusaka Peace Agreement. This demonstrates a clear

commitment of the Security Council to move forward the peace process on the basis of the reaffirmation of the Peace Agreement, made by all the parties concerned here in New York.

Now that the commitment to the Lusaka Peace Agreement is reaffirmed, it is our strong hope that the Security Council will quickly decide to dispatch the 500 military observers to the Democratic Republic of the Congo together with their protection forces as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report.

It is also important for the Council to decide to deploy a full-fledged peacekeeping force as soon as possible. I assure you, Mr. President, that Japan, which bears 20 per cent of the cost of any peacekeeping operation, will support such a decision by the Council.

Since 1994 Japan has been providing humanitarian assistance to the countries in the Great Lakes region, which amounts in total to $270 million. It is Japan's intention to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the hope that it will help stabilize the situation and reinforce the peace process.

As many delegations have pointed out, once the peace process is back on track, it will be important to address the issues of post-conflict development as well as the prevention of the recurrence of conflicts. With a view to enhancing human security, Japan is determined to support efforts by the international community in such fields as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration - especially of child combatants - removal of anti-personnel land mines and the control of illicit trade of small and other arms.

In concluding, I would like once again to urge all the parties to the Lusaka Peace Agreement to implement faithfully and quickly this important agreement and move forward in cooperation with one another to ensure a better prospect for peace and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the neighbouring countries.

Annex VII

[Original: English]

Lesotho: statement by Phakiso Mochochoko, Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Let me begin by commending you for the exemplary businesslike manner in which you have been conducting the work of this Council since the beginning of the month. This we believe has set the right tone for the conduct of the United Nations meetings as we enter the new century and should thus be emulated. We commend you in particular for devoting this first month of the new year to African issues, a clear testimony not only of your personal commitment, but that of your Government, to peace and stability in Africa. It would indeed be a fitting crown for you and your country if the Council were to adopt a resolution on the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo during this month of your Presidency.

Our gratitude also goes to the Secretary-General for his report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which once again reveals the complexity of the conflict that continues to ravage this country. It is clear from the report that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot end unless the parties fully commit themselves to cooperate to end it. In this regard, and for a long time, the absence of a neutral facilitator for the inter-Congolese dialogue has been seen as a missing link for the effective implementation of the Agreement. The appointment of former President Masire of Botswana as the facilitator of the national dialogue between the political forces, which we wholeheartedly welcome, is not only timely but should give renewed impetus to the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. We congratulate President Masire for his appointment and wish him all the best in his endeavours to find lasting peace for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The signing of the Lusaka Agreement is not only a step in the right direction but a brave and giant leap for all of us. It has offered renewed hopes for the return of peace to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular, the Great Lakes region, southern Africa and the African continent in general.

Since its signing, however, we have been faced with a paradox: the incidences of the Agreement's flagrant violations have been as pervasive as the universal yearning for its full implementation. It is indeed regrettable that, even as we gather here today, concerns about the implementation of the Agreement continue to mount.

Of particular concern is the deterioration in the military and security situation, resulting in increased flow of internally displaced persons and refugees; exacerbation of food shortages and flagrant breaches of peoples' human rights and international humanitarian law principles. No doubt, the unregulated transfer of weapons and ammunition has greatly contributed to prolong this conflict, to increase tensions and heighten civilian casualties.

A lot has been said about the need for a political will to find a democratic, long-lasting, non-military resolution to the conflict in the

Democratic Republic of the Congo. In reiterating the call for the parties to show even greater political will and commitment to the Lusaka process, we urge them to remember their obligation to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo: the selfless pursuit of the full implementation of the Lusaka Agreement. This occasion of the open Security Council debate in the presence of the leaders should not only be a time for reflection but is a unique opportunity for the parties to renew their commitment to the Lusaka Agreement by pledging to cooperate in a more active manner towards its full and successful implementation. Agreeing on a date for the convening of a regional conference on security and stability would certainly augur well for the process.

On the other hand, this Council must also reciprocate, not only by its political messages but by concrete actions underlining its commitment to assist the implementation of the Agreement. In the past and today as well, calls have been made for a more significant United Nations presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for this Council to take decisive steps to resolve the conflict in that country. In particular, appeals have been made for the urgent deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force. We subscribe to this laudable idea fully aware that all members of the international community need to make a strenuous effort to assure its success.

With memories of Srebrenica and Rwanda, in particular, as well as other unsuccessful United Nations stories still fresh in our minds, and given the complexity of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we appreciate warnings not to throw caution to the wind and that delay may be preferable to error. At the same time, we cannot wait for perfect peace in the face of continued suffering and killing of Congolese people who want peace now. Let us be reminded of the adage, "Peacekeeping is no job for soldiers, but soldiers are the only ones who can do it". We therefore urge this Council to give them the job.

Until such time as peacekeepers can be deployed, the Joint Military Commission's role for executing peacekeeping functions will remain indispensable. We are encouraged by progress made by the Commission in a short space of time since its establishment. The situation at Ikela and the Commission's efforts for a peaceful resolution underscore the urgent need for a peacekeeping force. This issue also highlights the need for closer cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) on the one hand as well as enhanced coordination and cooperation amongst all the players, including the United Nations, OAU and SADC. To this end, the appointment of the Secretary-General's Special Representative is a welcome move for the implementation of the Agreement and we wish him every success as well.

Lastly, the Lusaka process has to be matched by the commitment of resources for its successful implementation. We note that funds for the maintenance of the United Nations Mission will only last up to March, and that additional funds will be required for the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations for the deployment and equipping of additional military observers and civilian support personnel. We support the Secretary-General's recommendation and appeal for the necessary financial and logistical support from the international community for the implementation of those recommendations.

Annex VIII

[Original: English]

Norway: statement by Hans Brattskar, Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Norway highly appreciates the initiative of the United States and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke to convene this meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Norway is also grateful to President Chiluba, President Bouteflika and OAU, President Mbeki, President Chissano and others for their efforts to work for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Norway commends the humanitarian gesture of the United Republic of Tanzania of receiving, in the spirit of solidarity and as an international obligation, more than 100,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring Burundi. Norway moreover welcomes the designation of Sir Ketumile Masire, former president of Botswana, as Facilitator in the inter-Congolese negotiations.

This meeting of the Security Council will hopefully contribute to restoring and maintaining momentum for the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. However, the main responsibility lies with the signatories. It is on the basis of their commitment to the Agreement that the international community will consider lending its support.

Norway is already a considerable donor in the Great Lakes region and has followed the situation closely and with concern. An annual sum of approximately 200 million Norwegian kroner has been channelled to the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, over the past years. These contributions have been channelled both through the United Nations and various non-governmental organizations. The main focus of this assistance has been peace, reconciliation, human rights and humanitarian projects. In the same spirit Norway is prepared to channel assistance to former President Masire's efforts to facilitate the process of an internal national dialogue and reconciliation. Moreover, Norway will support activities such as demobilization, social reintegration of ex-combatants and rehabilitation of child soldiers through the United Nations trust fund.

Noting the Secretary-General's recommendation for the deployment of an expanded United Nations mission, Norway is willing to consider contributing military observers to such a force provided that the security situation is satisfactory.

Finally, Norway supports the idea launched by France and supported by others to arrange a Great Lakes conference, taking into account all the problems that are dividing the region concerning security, refugees, disarmament, development and democratization.

Annex IX

[Original: English]

United Republic of Tanzania: statement by Daudi N. Mwakawago, Permanent Representative

Mr. President, the United Republic of Tanzania joins others in commending your Presidency, as well as the Council, for the continued interest in the difficulties facing Africa. It was with a sense of renewed hope that we welcomed the dedication of this month to Africa. The presence of some of our Heads of State here is a clear demonstration of our confidence in the ability of the Security Council to act as an instrument of peace in our strife-torn continent. It is in this regard that for the Democratic Republic of the Congo the call for concerted action in its pursuit for peace and stability has never been more urgent.

The position of the United Republic of Tanzania on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was succinctly stated by my President, His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa, on 1 September 1999 in an address to the University of Uppsala in Sweden when he said:

> "... the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement signed on 10 July 1999 provides an adequate framework and mechanism for durable peace, security and stability, not only in the Democratic Republic of the Congo itself, but also in the entire Great Lakes region. The Agreement, which was negotiated by all the concerned parties, takes care of the security concerns of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and her neighbours. It provides a unique opportunity for the Congolese people to put in place a new political dispensation in their most troubled country through an all-inclusive national dialogue. Thus the Agreement, whose ownership is not contested by any concerned party, including the rebel movements, should be given a chance, politically and materially, to be implemented urgently."

Later during the month, in his address to the General Assembly on 20 September, President Mkapa further noted that it was very encouraging that all the parties involved in the conflict had finally signed the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and cautioned that:

> "the challenge ahead is not to let the momentum ebb, but to move expeditiously to implement the truce, including sending and empowering the OAU observer and United Nations peacekeeping force as envisaged."

When President Mkapa spoke last year he was not being prophetic, only realistic. For indeed, without exception, his persistent pleas constitute the thrust of the message we have heard in the Council yesterday and today. There is no denying that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing a moment of great challenge for its future. There is also no doubt about the direction it has chosen to walk. But whether it is able to walk down that path will largely depend on the degree this Council and the international community can stand up

and support the process the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region has committed itself to.

The Heads of State and the Ministers of the States of the region that spoke yesterday were very clear about their presence here: they had come to seek the help of the Council in the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement - an agreement which was also characterized as a vindication of the courage of the parties to choose dialogue over armed conflict. Tanzania continues to stress the urgency of supporting the Lusaka peace process. The leaders of the region have cautioned that any further delay can only be detrimental to the Ceasefire Agreement. Furthermore, there are sufficient indications that the cost of inaction or procrastination could be tragic, not only for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but the entire Great Lakes region. These warnings should urgently be heeded if another catastrophe is to be averted in the region.

It is in this context that our regional leaders have called for the following urgent measures to support and sustain the Ceasefire Agreement.

- Urgent deployment of the necessary United Nations military observers;
- Urgent deployment of the United Nations peacekeeping force;
- Provision of humanitarian assistance;
- Resources and material support to the Facilitator;
- Material, logistical and financial support to the Joint Military Commission;
- Assistance to the refugees and displaced population in the region.

The positive manner in which the Council responds to the pleas for help and assistance will not only signal a renewed sense of partnership but would trigger a fresh momentum so urgently required in order to move the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region towards peace and stability.

In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania is also concerned that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has had the effect of generating refugees who, in fear for their lives, have fled into our country. Already we are host to over 100,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Refugees have a particularly ominous aspect. The Security Council has been informed that one of the reasons some foreign troops are in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to neutralize the security they face, some of which emanates from genocidal refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is noteworthy that Tanzania has repeatedly been falsely accused of being a hotbed for elements within refugee camps bent on overthrowing the government they were running from. From our point of view, therefore, refugees are not only a product of conflict but are also often the cause of a vicious cycle of conflict. It is our belief that the international community and the Security Council in particular have not paid sufficient attention to the problem of refugees in Africa as a destabilizing force internally and in the region, and as a contributory factor to conflict in Africa.

It is thus our strong view that the implementation of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement will create a conducive atmosphere, not only for the critical role to be played by Sir Ketumile Masire, but also for peace and the national dialogue. We see the significance of this process in the creation of permanent structures for democracy and governance and therefore legitimacy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This will, in turn, stem the tide of refugees into our country which, in spite of the security risks it potentially creates, has also caused considerable human suffering to an innocent civilian population, the most vulnerable of whom are women and children. It is in this context that we urge firm support for Sir Ketumile Masire's efforts.

The President of Zambia, His Excellency Frederick Chiluba, pointed out that one of the major reasons for the delay in the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement has been the lack of funds. The President expressed his disappointment that not all pledged commitments have been realized. It is indeed unfortunate that the initial enthusiasm and goodwill which greeted the signing of the Agreement appear to have waned away. The delay in the implementation of the accord and the weak financial support made available have only succeeded in introducing an element of uncertainty on the ground. It is important that this regrettable state be reversed. This is our collective responsibility. It is our responsibility to the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for peace and stability in the Great Lakes region.

Our leaders travelled a long distance to come to New York. It is our hope that the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will not have to endure a long wait before they reap the dividends of their leaders' sojourn. The Council's meeting has also created anticipation and renewed hope. It is our great expectation therefore that the significance of this meeting in the fulfilment of the aspirations of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be rewarded with a firm commitment for a stronger partnership with the United Nations in seeking a lasting solution to the difficulties they and the region face.

Once again we commend the United States Presidency of the Security Council for declaring January the Africa month. It is our hope the groundwork that has been laid will be sustained in the months to come.

Annex X

[Original: English]

United States of America: statement by Richard C. Holbrooke, Permanent Representative

This morning, as I was listening to the excellent and encouraging statements being made, I could not help but think back two years to when I visited many of the leaders who have come here today in their home capitals. It was a time rich in promise.

In President Kabila, the Congolese people had a new leader pledged to national unity, and to carrying out economic and political reforms. Governments throughout the region seemed to be working together well, dedicated to finding solutions even to hard problems. There was broad agreement on the need for cooperation in securing borders, building democracy, respecting human rights, and preventing a recurrence of genocide.

In the months since, the United States has remained actively engaged. President Clinton made an historic visit to the continent. I have talked with officials from the region regularly. Special Representative Wolpe and other Administration representatives have worked hard on a daily basis to support the cause of stability and peace.

Unfortunately, during this period, there has occurred a catastrophic breakdown in regional cooperation and trust. The consequences have been disastrous, especially for the people of the Congo. I think we are off to a very good start today in bridging differences and focusing clearly not on blame for the past, but on concrete steps to build the right kind of future.

It is my fervent hope that this week will one day be viewed as the time that the promise of the Lusaka Agreement was finally fulfilled; as a decisive turning point, not only through this session, but also through the various bilateral and group meetings that will be held.

This has been called the month of Africa in the Security Council. But I know from my own years here that African issues are a regular topic of Council concern. My hope is that through diligent and persistent effort we can eliminate the need for that concern.

For we know that every dollar spent on war is a dollar that could have been spent to feed the hungry, educate the young or care for the ill. Every moment spent on war is a moment lost to democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Today, the opportunity beckons for restoring international cooperation in Central Africa, fostering reconciliation in the Congo, and starting a new era of peace and growth throughout the region.

Given the past, I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic about whether that opportunity will be seized. I only know that, realistically, it can and must be seized by you and by us, now. With that goal in mind, we look to Africa for leadership, and offer our sincere and lasting support.

Annex XI

[Original: French]

International Organization of la Francophonie: statement by Ridha Bouabid, Permanent Observer

I should like to express to you the appreciation of the International Organization of la Francophonie for the efforts that you are making, as President of the Security Council for this month of January, to focus the attention of this organ, which is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, on Africa and, today, on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

More than half the member countries of that organization are in the African continent. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a founding member of that intergovernmental organization, which was established at Niamey in 1970. It is the second largest French-speaking country after Canada, in terms of area, and the second largest French-speaking country after France, in terms of population. Because of its geographical location it is a central element for peace and security, not only in the subregion but in the continent as a whole.

We are therefore very interested in the Council's discussions on Africa and we pay close attention to your debates - and to your decisions - concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We hope that this new mobilization of the international community, through the Council and under your presidency, around the Congolese conflict will lead, this time, to concrete results. The Council has sometimes seemed like a hesitant actor or even a silent witness to that tragedy, although in other situations it has demonstrated greater swiftness and a stronger commitment, notwithstanding the uncertainties that may have hovered over the implementation of some of its decisions.

Since the start of the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, my organization, both at the level of its forums and at the level of its general secretariat, has sought to make its contribution to a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

As early as December 1998, the ministerial conference of la Francophonie, meeting in Bucharest, took note with interest of the beginnings of a dialogue between all the parties which occurred on the occasion of the Africa-France Summit and the promise of a ceasefire which was given to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the then Chairman of the Organization of African Unity. It supported the idea of an international conference on peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and invited the Secretary-General of la Francophonie to make himself available to the parties concerned, with a view to contributing to the multilateral action in the service of peace in that region.

The heads of State and Government of la Francophonie, at their eighth summit, in Moncton, Canada, last September, gave their full support to the efforts made to settle the conflicts in the Great Lakes region; they welcomed the signing by all parties of the Lusaka agreements - an essential step towards a just and comprehensive peace in that region; they called on all the parties and all the signatories to those agreements to apply all the provisions of those agreements and declared that they were prepared to lend their support to the implementation of those provisions.

The Secretary-General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, for his part, spared no effort to help the belligerents cease hostilities and start a true dialogue, which is the only way which can lead to peace and create the conditions necessary for national reconciliation and a resumption of the democratic process.

Just a few weeks following the outbreak of the crisis he sent a first mission of good offices to Kinshasa, from 2 to 5 October 1998, which he entrusted to Dr. Emile Derlin Zinsou, former President of Benin.

President Zinsou, special envoy of the Secretary-General of la Francophonie for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was to go another three times to that country, and also to Uganda and Rwanda, twice on a joint mission with the Community of St. Egidio. (You will undoubtedly remember the role that that religious community played in the settlement of the conflict in Mozambique.)

All these missions and the numerous contacts initiated by la Francophonie and by the Community of St. Egidio, in Paris, and also in Brussels and Rome, made it possible to establish contacts and in-depth consultations, not only with the Kinshasa authorities but also with all three elements of the armed opposition, with the unarmed internal opposition, the unarmed external opposition, civil society and the churches.

At each of these stages, the International Organization of la Francophonie recalled its commitment to the unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, emphasized its complete neutrality vis-à-vis all the parties and worked to establish a national debate which could be a first step towards re-establishing trust between the parties and clearing the way to a negotiated solution of the conflict.

Aside from the question of facilitation, we were negotiating with all Congolese political and military forces regarding the nature, goals and even the agenda of the national debate that was to be instituted; the list of who should participate; the place, date and duration of the meetings; the guarantees concerning the liberty and security of participants and the status of any decisions which might result therefrom.

At each of those stages, our partners in the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity were kept informed, so convinced are we that the settlement of conflicts, as well as the prevention of conflicts, is a delicate and complex task requiring the assistance of everyone, the assistance of all who, to a greater or lesser degree, are in a position to make their contribution to peace-building.

We therefore welcomed the signing of the Lusaka agreements. We saw them as yet further proof that Africans - who have long been urged to do this by the international community - are in a position to settle their differences themselves, through negotiation and dialogue.

These agreements - you, Mr. President, have said it yourself, you who have the experience of so many other peace negotiations throughout the world - are a remarkable basis for bringing the country out of its crisis and putting it back on the road to sustainable peace and development.

We therefore also welcomed the appointment of Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Botswana, as facilitator of the national dialogue among the Congolese.

I should like, on behalf of the Secretary-General, to assure him of our wholehearted support for his mission and to assure him that the International Organization of la Francophonie stands ready to make available to him, and to the Organization of African Unity, the experience which it has acquired through its involvement, from the start of the crisis, in the search for a negotiated solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We hope that this appointment will enable the parties to embark truly and with all necessary good faith, on serious negotiations. But we remain greatly concerned at the deterioration of the situation in the field.

For there are a number of reports, all of which are in agreement, which would lead one to believe that the parties continue to prefer the military way. The recent events in Mbandaka, the upsurge in military activity by certain armed groups in the eastern part of the country and reports from south Kivu do not attest to the commitment of the parties to the path outlined and agreed on at Lusaka.

We support your efforts and we joint you and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in calling on all the protagonists to embark resolutely on implementing the Lusaka agreements.

We call on them to end the suffering of the Congolese people and of the hundreds of thousands of refugees and displaced persons, and to cooperate with their governmental and non-governmental partners so that they can help them to help the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The International Organization of la Francophonie stands ready to cooperate with the other international partners, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in strengthening the international community's efforts to protect and promote human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I also take this opportunity to remind all parties that we stand ready to help them to restore and strengthen democratic practice and democratic institutions in the country, and we urge them to participate in the discussions being held in our organization in accordance with the plan of action adopted at

the Moncton Summit in preparation for the international symposium on democratic practice in the francophone world, to be held in Bamako at the end of this year.

No one can restore peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo unless the Congolese people themselves want peace. But although there are disturbing trends that cast doubt on their will to reach a peaceful solution, there are other trends that raise high hopes for the peace initiatives of the international community.

Mr. President, there are few who do not agree with your statement that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is probably far more complex than that of East Timor and as least as complex as that of Kosovo.

But at the same time, let us not forget other cases where, despite the extremely difficult situations which have prevailed in some countries and which have threatened to destabilize their subregions, the Council has succeeded in taking the necessary decisions and in helping them to recover from their crises; I allude, inter alia, to Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic.

As President Chiluba maintained a few months ago, and again yesterday, before this Council, Africa has played an important role in the process of resolving the Congolese crisis. With patience and determination, it has achieved the negotiation, conclusion and signature by all parties of the Lusaka Agreement.

It is now time for the international community to play its role by supporting those endeavours.

Thanks to the edifying report which the Secretary-General has submitted to you and for which I wish to express my appreciation, the Council now has a body of new information that should give it an even clearer idea of the situation than it had during the previous deliberations and should allow it to act promptly and effectively to promote the full implementation of the Lusaka Agreement and the restoration of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The proposed concept of operations is, in our opinion, both realistic and appropriate pending the full deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force. If agreed and implemented promptly, it will make it possible to maintain the enthusiasm inspired by the signature of the Lusaka Agreement and to show the Congolese people that if they want peace, the international community is on their side.

We are confident that the Council will take the necessary steps to ensure that the recommendations contained in this report are acted upon. We hope that this will be done and assure you once again, Mr. President, of our full support.